

Leadership Training Held for CTSO State Officers

“Career Tech – The Path for Success” is the official theme for Career and Technical Education Week held February 8-14. Each year numerous activities take place on state and national levels to promote the importance of career and technical education. In addition to many events sponsored locally at area technology centers, the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) presented a special *“Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) State Officers Legislative Leadership Training”* on February 9 in Frankfort.

“With approximately 40,000 students across Kentucky participating in CTSOs, it is important that the state leaders of the various organizations understand how to best represent their diverse membership,” says Mike Stone, KACTE executive director. “KACTE takes the opportunity during Career and Technical Education Week to organize a leadership training program that hopes to impart advocacy skills so these leaders are effective in explaining to the public, legislators and other officials the value of their organizations and the critical relationship career and technical education programs have to the Kentucky economy.”

At right: Mike Stone, KACTE executive director





From l to r: Chester Taylor, KACTE president and Lake Cumberland ATC principal; Brent Legg, Education Cabinet legislative liaison; Mardi Montgomery, Education Cabinet deputy secretary; and Shara N. Raymer, 2003-04 KY DECA president from Pulaski Co. H.S.

“We are delighted to put together a program for our students because it continues to refine their leadership roles as well as address character and the skills they need for an aspiring future,” says KY Tech Lake Cumberland ATC Principal and KACTE President Chester Taylor.

“After all, these students are the ones who will be our future and it’s up to all of us to grow the best we can. That’s what we are all about.”

Part of the training included a special appearance by the newly appointed Education Cabinet Deputy Secretary Mardi Montgomery. Ms. Montgomery energized the students by praising their accomplishments

Top right: Mardi Montgomery, Education Cabinet deputy secretary, addresses students.

and leadership endeavors, as well as being an active participant in their training activities. She spoke about current issues facing technical education in Kentucky.

“We in Kentucky are going to be able to invest in education and retraining. With Governor Fletcher’s administration and the talent in this room, Kentucky will not only be competitive, we will be a leader,” said Montgomery. “Vocational education has turned into a highly technical field and has made a major shift in its focus. The governor is committed to ensuring that federal Carl D. Perkins dollars are intact and expanded. We believe that career and technical education is an integral component of all of education.”

Another special feature and surprise of the program was Montgomery’s introduction of Education Cabinet Legislative Liaison Brent Legg. Appointed by Governor Fletcher, Legg is no stranger to



student organizations and personally understands the value of a CTSO experience.

"My involvement in CTSOs like TSA and FBLA in high school molded the leadership and analytical skills I needed to pursue a career in politics. As Kentucky TSA state president, I learned how to effectively communicate my ideas and work well with others. CTSOs give students the opportunity to 'step up to the plate' and face challenges that grow them mentally and professionally," says Legg. "I can say with confidence that I would not have the job I have today had I not been actively involved in a CTSO in high school. And that's just one reason why I'm so honored to have been appointed by a governor who understands how invaluable CTSOs and CTE programs are to the future of Kentucky."



Brent Legg currently serves as the Education Cabinet legislative liaison and formerly served as the 1998-99 TSA state president.

Student organizations invited to attend the training included TSA (Technology Student Association), FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), PBL (Phi Beta Lambda), HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America), SkillsUSA VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America), FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America), FFA (an organization of agricultural education) and DECA (An Association of Marketing Students).



Good News Flash #54
February 16, 2004

